

Present: Dick Burkhardt; John Coney, Chair; Ray Day, Jr.; Dave Elliott; John Jensen; Sandy Paul-Lyle; Anirudh Sahni, Vice Chair; Joan Sells; Mike Taylor

Excused: Dwight Baker; Andy Bennett; Hans Brandal; Holly Plackett

Staff: Marnie McGrath, Community Relations Planner; David Hull, Supervisor of Service Planning Section, King County Metro

Chair John Coney called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Coney explained that Seattle City Councilmember Jan Drago was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict, but that if the group wished, he would invite her to the next meeting. All TAC members concurred and suggested that Councilmember Drago be placed first on the agenda and that she be given a full hour to talk.

Transit NOW – Progress Report

David Hull, Supervisor of Service Planning Section, presented a progress report on the Transit Now proposal.

Hull explained that a series of public hearings was being held and that the proposal has received a high level of public support.

Elliott asked why no public meeting was scheduled on the eastside. Hull explained that staff has made presentations to the ETP and other groups and that the King County Council determined where the public meetings should be held.

Jensen suggested providing information about Transit NOW on the public cable channel 22 or other such forum, if that could be done in the form of education, not promotion.

Day asked what will happen next. Hull explained that staff is already working on administrative changes that can be implemented in February 2007.

Day asked if Metro was going to need new bus bases as a result of Transit NOW. Hull answered that Transit NOW wouldn't necessitate building new bases, but that Metro plans to expand Ryerson Base and already has a new base in the plans for 2016.

Burkhart asked about the need for new buses. Hull answered that it takes 18-24 months to get buses and that there is an RFP out now. There are plans to buy 20 hybrid coaches with a potential for ordering another 100 coaches down the road. Hull added that he was advocating for coaches with 3 doors for ease of boarding.

Coney asked how Transit NOW was coordinating with other rapid growth bus systems currently on the road. Hull assured TAC members that Metro was coordinating efforts with Pierce Transit, Sound Transit, Community Transit.

TAC Meeting Notes

June 13, 2006

Page 2



Coney asked if the South Lake Union Street Car project has any implications for the Transit NOW proposal. Hull answered that there are no dollars designated for that project in Transit NOW but that the trolley might result in greater span of service on the Route 70.

Sahni asked if the RapidRide routes would take away from local routes. Hull explained that is not the intent. Rather, the intention is to maintain current routing and add hours overall. Hull also defined RapidRide as all-day, 2-way service on an arterial.

Jensen asked if there is any evidence that maintenance costs will drop on coaches used for RapidRide routes. Hull answered that he wasn't aware of that.

Sahni asked Hull to explain what transit service changes could be made administratively versus what changes must be approved by the County Council. Hull explained that Council action is required to make any change or addition of more than 25% of the service hours on a given route or to move a route more than ½ mile.

Taylor asked if jurisdictions would be contributing money or cooperation to leverage greater improvements on the BRT routes. Hull answered yes, that this was part of the partnerships aspect of Transit NOW.

Committee Business

Coney queried TAC members as to who was available to attend the following meetings:

- Regional Transit Committee meeting on July 19th : Elliott said he would try to attend.
- Transportation Committee meeting on July 26th: Coney and Jensen said they would attend and Sahni said he might attend.

Coney asked TAC members to consider whether the group wished to take a position on the Waterfront Street Car project. Taylor responded that he was interested but thought the group should take a look at the TAC work plan first.

Adjournment

Coney adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.